

Great Britain

Generals

Brigadier & Colonel

Lt Colonel & Major

Cap



Shoulder



Collar Patch:
Generals

General

Lieutenant
General

Major
General

Collar Patch:
Brigadier & Colonel

Brigadier

Cuff

Collar Patch



Warrant Officer
(intro. 1943)

Sergeant Major

Q.M. Sergeant
(P.T. Instructor)

Colour Sergeant
(non-sub badge on
right cuff)

Bandmaster 1st Class
(equiv. to Col. Sgt.)

Sergeant
(Gunnery Instructor)

Royal Marines

The Royal Marines were active in the Far East as commandos, as well as their role as part of the complement of the Royal Navy vessels. Their special qualities as élite soldiers were used to good effect in Burma in the No 3 Commando Brigade. A typical Marine commando detachment would be 100-men strong with a small HQ and three troops of 30 officers and men. Despite their strong traditions with the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines wore uniform

and insignia more identifiable with that of the Army. Most distinctive was their headdress; a dark blue peaked cap with a red band, often worn with a white top. In tropical dress a distinctive feature of the Royal Marine uniform was a fabric belt in the corps' colours.

Officers of general rank wore scarlet gorget patches with gold leaves, and cap badges of cross batons on a wreath of laurel surmounted by the Royal Crest; brigadiers and colonels wore gorget patches of scarlet

Other Officers &
W.O. & RSM

Q.M. Sergeant

Other NCOs



Colonel

Lieutenant Colonel

Major

Captain

Lieutenant

2nd Lieutenant &
Comm. W.O.Bandmaster 2nd Class
(equivalent to Sgt.)Corporal
(Military Training
Instructor)

Lance Corporal

Marine
(Signals, G.C. Badge)Provost Sergeant
or Cook Sergeant

cloth with a red gimp, and cap badges depicting the Royal Crest.

Officers' rank badges were worn on the shoulder strap. As a generalisation subalterns wore stars (commonly known as 'pips'), field officers crowns with a star added for each superior rank, and general officers crossed batons with swords. Thus a second-lieutenant wore one star, to which a second was added on promotion to lieutenant and a third on promotion to captain. A major wore a crown, a lieutenant colonel a

crown above a star, a colonel a crown above two stars, and a brigadier a crown above three stars set in triangular formation. Lieutenant colonels and below wore their rank insignia above the letters RM. Other ranks wore badges of rank based on those of the Army with arm-of-service insignia above.

It should be remembered that many Royal Marines saw action in commando engagements in which rank was often not worn and uniform was personalised for comfort.